

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
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Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Applicants request a one month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office action, and a separate petition to this effect is enclosed.

The Examiner's additional remarks have been received and carefully considered.

Pending claims 1, 27, 28, 45 and 49 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 6 and 50 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate and hereby acknowledge the telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on October 16, 2003, during which the status of claim 5 was discussed. The substance of the interview is reflected in the Interview Summary of record.

The Examiner rejected prior claims 1, 45 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Dwillies Patent 5,277,512. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected prior claims 1 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Jones Patent 3,513,606. While Applicants believe that the rejection of these prior claims is not well taken, all rejected claims have been cancelled from the present application, such that the issue is now moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional patent protection on this invention in a continuing application.

As noted above, all rejected claims have been cancelled, and allowable claims 6 and 50 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's

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comments that claims 30-40 remain allowable. Since all pending claims are allowable, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. A notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and all identified enclosures and attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on 11/20/03.


Carl S. Clark

CSC/jkrp
Enclosures